

September 21, 2023

Regular Town Board Meeting

Present: Supervisor Marty Mason, Councilman Paul Aubertine, Councilman Dan Wiley, Councilman Alan Wood, Councilman Tim Maloney, Highway Superintendent Bill Pond, Keith Brass and approximately 6 visitors.

Supervisor Mason opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the floor

Ron Clapp – Mr. Clapp said that he wanted to introduce himself to the board and meet them. He said that he is the owner of the Carleton Villa. He said that he is in the planning and designing stages. He asked the board if they had any questions.

Councilman Wood said that the boards will make things as easy as possible for him.

Councilman Wiley said that there is a lot of buzz around town regarding his project.

Mr. Clapp said the property was built in 1895, and he went over the repairs and that they will be using it for a Bed and Breakfast and a restaurant. He said that he feels this is perfect timing as it will tie in with the East End Park project.

The board wished Mr. Clapp luck in his endeavor.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to accept the minutes of August 17 and September 14, 2023, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Councilman Wood made a motion to accept the Supervisor's Financial Report, seconded by Councilman Maloney. All members voted AYE.

Bills: H1 Club St, \$7,702.50; H4 WD #7, \$237.50; WD #1, \$8,948.74; WD #3, \$298.52; WD #4, \$1,384.64; WD #5, \$589.52; WD #6, \$554.84; Highway, \$152,739.48; General Fund, \$33,297.22.

Councilman Wood made a motion to approve of the payment of the vouchers, seconded by Councilman Aubertine. All members voted AYE.

Matt Cooper – Matt gave the board an update on the sewer project. He said that they are waiting to hear for the WQIP announcement. He also spoke about a BIL loan (Bipartisan Infrastructure Loan) which offers hardship financing, and he spoke about where he feels the town would place on the hardship list. Councilman Aubertine said that he is concerned because the EDUs are determined using the same formula as the water districts. Matt said it is and that the town will need a sewer law.

Councilman Wiley asked if they reduce the number of EDUs, will this cost more. Matt said that if the EDU count is lowered the cost would have to be put on users.

Councilman Aubertine said that he is getting push back from the trailer parks, they are not interested in having municipal sewer, and if they opt out, that will lower the EDU count making it costly for the other users. Matt said that the town will have to decide the EDU assignment in the sewer law.

There was a discussion on how the board will ensure that the cost is viable cost for everyone.

Matt said that the EDU assignment is a benefit, and the property owner will have to pay for the benefit.

Councilman Maloney said that the board will have a hard time trying to sort this out, and Matt said that the property owner will have a lot to gain.

Councilman Aubertine said that he does not want to put more funds into the sewer project until the EDUs are defined.

Supervisor Mason said that the water law spells out what the EDUs are.

Councilman Maloney asked if the property owner can legally get out of the district, and he said that he wanted to make it clear that the board is fact finding.

Matt Cooper reviewed water district #7 and gave an update on the grant application stating they are still awaiting the announcement.

Matt also spoke about the high lift pump replacement. He said that the valves have not been delivered and he is still waiting for a phone call back as to what the holdup is.

Jarrold Radley asked what qualified Cape Vincent for the hardship status. Matt said that the State maps out the environmental justice areas. Jarrold asked if the prison was included, knowing they already have sewer, and Matt said the prison was included.

Reports

Highway – Highway Superintendent Bill Pond said that the bridge on County Rte. 4 is now open and it has been partly paved. He said that the County Rte. 6, Tibbetts Point road project will need just a couple more days and it will be done.

Bill said that the new fuel system is still being installed and he and Tina have had some training on the new program. He said that they will be surface treating next week. Bill told the board that he has 3 quotes for grinding the brush at the transfer site.

Recreation Park – Keith Brass told the board that the usual activities have gone on there. He said that the compressor in the refrigerator went out and it will be a costly repair. He said that he bought a new refrigerator. He said that they have worked with the village on installing a water line for the new drinking fountain. Keith told the board he had maintenance done on the furnaces and they now run quite a bit quieter. He said that the pickleball players thanked him for the work they have done on the court.

Water – Keith Brass said that they have 2 new water installs to do. They have started water shutoffs and he and John Lawrence have been taking a few training classes.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Mason told the board that they have been invited to the Chamber of Commerce event and RSVP date is Sept. 25.

Supervisor Mason said that he spoke with Megan Kendall regarding the Trottier property and they are still waiting for Mr. Trottier to do a subdivision before the property can be purchased.

Supervisor Mason reviewed an invitation to a forum, North Country Prospers. He said it is hosted by Assemblyman Scott Gray, and the speaker is Brian Murray.

Councilman's Report

Councilman Aubertine said that he has not heard from the town attorney regarding an issue he spoke with him about. He said that he will have Wendall Yeardon apply to have a water line installed and then the town can submit it to DANC.

Supervisor Mason said that the Yeardon's need to form a district first.

Councilman Wiley said that he would like to have the board share with him their thoughts on the LDC moving forward with hiring an Executive Director.

Councilman Aubertine said that he felt one is not needed at this time and he would rather see the funds go to projects.

Councilman Maloney said that the LDC should be considering the issues other than an Executive Director. He said that he feels the work load is not there yet.

Councilman Wood said that he attended the Planning and Zoning board meetings and things seem to be running well.

Councilman Maloney said that he attended the Ambulance Squad board meeting but they did not have a quorum so it was cancelled. He said they have not had a meeting in over 2 months.

He also said that Jeff Call would like to attend a board meeting to discuss their budget. The board suggested he attend the October regular meeting.

Councilman Aubertine said regarding the Ad Hoc committee, the Chairmen feel that the boards are working well and they are happy.

Keith Brass said that the CL 17 has been giving them trouble at the pump station and he will need to replace it.

Councilman Aubertine made a motion to authorize Keith to replace the CL 17, seconded by Councilman Wiley. All members voted AYE.

Resolutions

Resolution #53

Resolution #53 was moved by Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Wood. Resolution #53 is to agree to the placement of a drinking fountain at the playground and that they further agree to contribute \$2,500.00 toward its installation.

Resolution #54

Resolution #54 was moved by Councilman Aubertine, seconded by Councilman Wiley. Resolution #54 is to declare the Morebark Tub Grinder surplus equipment and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to place it on the auction site.

There was no discussion. All members voted AYE.

Tim White told the board that playground and pickleball grants are trying to get to the Senate Finance Committee. Tim said that he does not think the grants will happen.

Councilman Wood made a motion to adjourn at 7:20pm

Michelle Bouchard, RMC – Town Clerk